(b) the steps being taken in improving the coffee cultivation in the country;

(c) the total export turnover of coffee during the last three years; and

(d) the estimated demand of coffee in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The total quantity of production and consumption of coffee in the country during the last three years has been as under:—

(in MT)

Year	Production	Consumption*
1999-00	292000	55000
2000-01	301200	60000
2001-02	300600	64000

*Calendar year-wise.

(b) For overall development of coffee industry and to enhance coffee production, the Govt. of India through Coffee Board has been implementing various plan schemes under which various types of financial/technical assistance are provided to the coffee growers. Further, thrust is being given for increasing productivity of coffee and improving quality of the produce to achieve competitiveness in the international markets.

(c) The export turnover of coffee during 1999-00, 2000-01 and 2001-02 have been Rs. 1901.21 crore, Rs. 1376.90 and Rs. 1049.84 have respectively.

(d) The estimated demand of the coffee in the country is between 55000—65000 MT per annum.

Rejection of consignment of soya-corn blend from U.S.

1096. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently rejected U.S. food consignment of soya-corn blend;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Government policy to ensure that imports to make food for poor school children fulfills all health checks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The proposal of CARE & CRS to import Corn Soya Blend (CSB) containing genetically modified (GM) material under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program through United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was considered by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its meeting held on 7th November, 2002. The GEAC noted that there are several GM corn varieties being cultivated in USA both for human consumption and animal feed. In view of the apprehension expressed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and in the absence of any certification from the US regulatory agency to the effect that the CSB shipment does not contain the banned or obsolete variety of transgenic corn, the GEAC decided not permit the import of CSB.

(c) All food items imported into the country are checked as per the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and shall be subject to all the conditions laid down in the aforesaid Act. Import of all these products will have to comply with the quality and packaging requirement laid down in the Act. For food having GM content, the GEAC evaluates the food and health safety aspects prior to its import.

Unauthorised cultivation of tobacco

1097. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sought Government's Intervention in regularizing the unathorized cultivation of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has requested for raising the ceiling limit on the quantum of tobacco it can produce or to reduce the rate of levy on the encess production from 15 per cent to 2 per cent ;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) whether Government propose to remove the ceiling on production